

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: March 10, 2014
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Council Business

- *CL&P Interstate Reliability Project* - Construction will begin in the coming weeks on the Interstate Reliability Project. First stages include right-of-way clearing and construction of access roads. Additional information will be posted on the Town's website as it becomes available. Weekly construction updates can be found at www.NEEWSprojects.com. Residents can also call 1-866-99NEEWS (1-866-996-3397) or email NEEWS@NU.com for more information.
- *Council Inquiry re State Trooper Fringe Benefit Rate* – At the last meeting, Councilor Wassmundt asked for information regarding the breakdown and composition of the fringe benefit rate that municipalities are assessed by the state under the Resident Trooper program. The rate Mansfield was assessed for FY 2013/14 breaks down as follows:

Social Security	6.20%
Medicare	1.45%
SERS-Retirement	58.95%
Medical Insurance	14.08%
Group Life Insurance	0.06%
Unemployment Comp.	0.12%
Workers' Compensation	<u>2.99%</u>
Total	83.85%

- *Legislative Program* – I continue to monitor legislative issues that are important to Mansfield. To date, the Mayor, staff and have testified on municipal aid to municipalities, propose changes to the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) and the affordability of the Resident Trooper program. This coming Friday, March 21st, the Mayor and I will be back in front of the Appropriations Committee to discuss the Governor's mid-term budget adjustments and state aid to cities and towns.
- *Town Attorney Services* – The Personnel Committee will interview the two remaining firms on March 12, 2014.
- *UConn Public Scoping Meetings* – UCONN will be holding public scoping meetings the evening of Monday, March 17th for two proposed projects: a new 850 bed residence hall next to the Hilltop Residence Halls on Alumni Drive; and a new Engineering and Science Building off of Glenbrook Road. These meetings were rescheduled from February due to snow. The scoping meeting for the residence hall will start at 7:00 PM; the meeting for the engineering/science building will start at 7:30 PM or immediately upon the close of the first meeting, whichever is later. The meetings will be held in Room 146 at Bishop Center; written comments must be submitted by March 22, 2014.

Departmental Reports

- *Planning and Zoning*
 - *Safe Routes to Schools Grant: Southeast School Walkway* – A public information meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 25th at 7:00 PM at the Southeast School Gymnasium on a new walkway proposed to connect Southeast Elementary School to the existing walkway on Storrs Road (Rte. 195). The Town applied for grant funding for this project from the Safe Routes to School program in 2011. While the grant application was not one of the original projects selected for that grant round, the Town was recently notified that due to the availability of additional funding, this project is now eligible for a grant award. The purpose of this meeting is to provide an overview of the proposed project and obtain feedback from the community.
- *Town Manager's Office*
 - *FY 2014/15 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program* – The budget team and I are finalizing work on the proposed budget and CIP, which we will present to the Town Council at the budget workshop scheduled for March 24, 2014.

Major Projects

- *Storrs Center* – GBS Threading & SPA is now open in Storrs Center and offers eyebrow threading and henna tattoos, including bridal mehendi. Other services include waxing, facial services, eyelash extensions, manicures, and pedicures. All products are natural and no chemicals are used. Eyebrow threading has become very popular and the growth of GBS Threading & SPA reflects this demand. The Storrs Center location will be the seventh shop for owners Shiva and Binda Neupane who opened their first store in Trumbull, Connecticut in 2007. GBS Threading & SPA is located in One Royce Circle, Suite 110.

Upcoming Events

- *Storrs Farmers Market* – The Storrs Winter Farmers Market will be held on Saturdays (March 22, & 29, and April 12 & 26), 3:00 – 5:00PM, inside the Buchanan Auditorium at the Mansfield Public Library. Storrs Farmers Market is the only year-round farmers market in Northeastern Connecticut. For more information or to sign up for the Market email newsletter, please visit: www.storrsfarmersmarket.org.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Youth Services Bureau Advisory Board, March 11, 2014, 12:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Traffic Authority Meeting, March 11, 2014, 2:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town-University Relations Committee, March 11, 2014, 4:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Historic District Commission, March 11, 2014, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, March 12, 2014, 2:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, March 12, 2014, 5:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Community Campus Partnership, March 13, 2014, 4:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Playground Committee, March 13, 2014, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee, March 13, 2014, 7:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, March 14, 2014, 8:10 AM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Responsible Contracting Committee, March 14, 2014, 9:00 AM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, March 17, 2014, 4:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

- Planning and Zoning Commission, March 17, 2014, 7:00PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Traffic Advisory Committee, March 18, 2014, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Cemetery Committee, March 19, 2014, 3:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, March 19, 2014, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Economic Development Commission, March 20, 2014, 5:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee, March 21, 2014, 8:00 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Town Council Meeting, March 24, 2014, 6:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, March 24, 2014, 7:30PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*